(a) whether Government have received any Iranian offer to supply natural gas through a direct pipeline to meet the growing domestic requirement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the decision taken/proposed to be taken by Government in the matter alongwith the implications thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (d) Offers have been received from time to time. Action on such offers would require to be considered in conjunction with other options such as import of LNG etc. to meet the growing domestic demand for natural gas.

सतना–रीवा–बघवार–ड्योहारी रेलवे लाइन का निर्माण

2502. श्री नारायण प्रसाद गुप्ता : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने सतना-रीवा-बघवार-ड्योहारी रेलवे लाइन को अपनी मंजूरी दे दी है, यदि हाँ तो इस संबंध में चालू वर्ष के लिए बजट में कितना उपबंध किया गया है तथा अब तक इस लाइन के निर्माण के कार्य में कितनी प्रगति हुई है ; और

(ख) उक्त रेलवे लाइन के सतना-रीवा तक के भाग के निर्माण कार्य को कब तक पूरा किये जाने की संभावना है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन) : केवल सतना-रीवा लाइन का अनुमोदन किया गया है । 1992–93 के लिए 6.9 करोड़ रुपये के परिव्यय की व्यवस्था है और 30-9-92 तक हुई प्रगति 85% है ।

(ख) वित्त वर्ष 1992–93 के दौरान ।

Construction of rail cum road bridge over Brahmaputra river

2503. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a draft survey on Bogibil-Dibrugarh for construction of rail-cum-road bridge over Brahmaputra river from the Rail India Technical and Economic Services Limited (RITES);

(b) whether it is a fact that the said area is economically backward and this proposed bridge would help the development process; and

(c) if so, by when Government are likely to start the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The work is not yet approved. It can be taken up after completion of 2nd Brahmaputra bridge at Jogighopa now under construction, which is expected to be completed in 94-95, subject to availability of resources.

रेलवे का कम्प्यूटरीकरण

2504. श्री गया सिंह : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) रेलवे के कितने मंडलों में अब तक कंप्यूटरीकरण कर दिया गया है;

(ख) किस-किस मंडल में एक से अधिक सहायक प्रोग्रामरों की नियुक्ति की गई है; और

(ग) यदि विभाग में सहायक प्रोग्राम कंसोल आपरेटर के कोई पद रिक्त पड़े हैं तो उन्हें न भरने के क्या कारण हैं ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन) : (क) अठारह ।

(ख) लमडिंग, अलीपुर द्वार, गुंतकल, विजयवाडा, जबलपुर, दानापुर और झांसी मंडलों में सहायक प्रोग्रामर के एक से अधिक पद हैं ।

(ग) केवल कुछ मंडलों में सहायक प्रोग्रामर और कंसोल आपरेटर के पद रिक्त पड़े हैं, कंप्यूटर सेंटर के लिए अलग संवर्ग बनाने की वांछनीयता का प्रश्न मुख्य कारण है जिसकी वजह से सहायक प्रोग्रामरों के पदों को नहीं भरा जा रहा है । पदोन्नति, स्थानान्तरण, प्रकरण की प्रक्रिया आदि जैसे नेमी कारणों से कंसोल आपरेटरों के पद रिक्त पड़े हैं ।

Wagons for fast unloading of coal at Kolaghat

2505. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that West Bengal Government has asked for 500 special types of wagons (BOBR) for fast unloading of coal at Kolaghat;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c) Minister-in-Charge of Department of Power and Non-Conventional Energy Sources and Science and Technology, Government of West Bengal vide his letter dated 2-4-92 had requested for supply of coal to units IV, V and VI of Kolaghat Thermal Power Station in BOBR wagons. The Power Station has not provided necessary infrastructure to handle BOBR wagons. However, Railways have made a beginning by deploying 127 BOBR wagons for loading coal to Kolaghat Thermal Power Station.

Under utilisation of rail link between Howrah and Haldia

2506. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN :
SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for gross under utilisation of rail link between Howrah and Haldia as revealed by an appraisal of the existing transport network of the area;

(b) whether Government have any plan for proper utilisation of the existing facilities of the area;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) The rail link between Howrah and Haldia is not under utilised. The extent of utilisation is adequate.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Increase in Passenger and Goods Traffic at Haldia

2507. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Haldia has emerged as a Major centre for industrial and commercial activities in the eastern region and considerable increase in passenger and goods traffic;

(b) if so, whether railways propose to utilise the boom through increased railway service; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) to (c) Over the years, the freight traffic activity at Haldia Port has gradually increased. The main commodities carried on this section are coal for thermal power stations and industries in Southern India, imported coal for steel plants, imported fertilisers etc. and the petroleum products. Adequate number of freight trains are run on this section to move the traffic from and to Haldia Port. There is, however, no noticeable increase in passenger traffic.

Conversion of Latur-Miraj Line

2508. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the